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Message Text

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21
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00

/031 W
---------- 103470
P R 120321Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 658
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 1828

UNCLAS BANGKOK 19652

FOR D/HA/ORM CUSHING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/ SREF
SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF REFUGEE MOVEMENT

REF : A. BANGKOK 19258
B. THOMPSON/CUSHING TELCON 7-9

1. TRANSIT FACILITIES IN BANGKOK FOR U.S. PROGRAM ARE AT TWO LOCATIONS:

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE HOSTEL HAVING CAPACITY OF FOUR HUNDRED
AND IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER, THREE FIFTY CAPACITY. IN SUM,
SEVEN FIFTY, USEABLE BED CAPACITY AT TWO CENTERS CAN AMSORB
AVERAGE OF 100 PEOPLE ON MEDICAL HOLDS; 200-250 OVERLAP DURING IN-
OUT EXCHANGE; AND FOUR HUNDRED PROCESS NG.

2. PROCESSING OF REFUGEES, INCLUDING MEDICAL CHECK, FINGERPRINT,
SOCIAL SECURITY AND FINAL THAI EXIT DOCUMENTATION TAKES THE FOUR

DAYS. IDEALLY FIRM BOOKINGS WOULD NOT BE REQUESTED PRIOR TO MEDICAL
CLEARANCE. HOWEVER, BOOKINGS ARE NOW MADE IN ADVANCE OF PROCESSING,
AND APPROPRIATE CANCELLATIONS ARE MADE AFTER PROCESSING. TYPICALLY
REFUGEES MOVE FROM 70-COUNTRY SITES TWICE WEEKLY, ARRIVING SUNDAY
AND WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. THEY COMMENCE PROCESSING THE FOLLOWING
MORNING AT 0630 A.M. DURING PROCESSING A PERCENTAGE WILL
BE PLACED ON HOLD, USUALLY FOR MEDICAL REASONS. PEOPLE N THIS
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STATUS CHANGE CONSTANTLY WITH AVERAGE TRANSIT CENTER OCCUPANCY AT

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90-100 BEDS. DURING THE TWO 48 HOUR PERIODS WHERE REFUGEES ERE
ENTERING THE TRANSIT CENTER WHILE OTHERS ARE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT,
MAXIMUM CAPACITY REQUIRED GOES TO 750.

3. PROJECTED MAXIMUM OUTPUT CAPACITY IS 400 PEOPLE ON SUNDAY
MONDAY FLIGHTS AND 400 WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FLIGHTS WITH NO
FLIGHTS SCHEDULED ARRIVING ON WEEKENDS.

4. OBVIOUSLY PRECISE PLANNING IS REQUIRED ON ICEM'S PART TO KEEP
INFLOW STEADY FROM ALL CAMPS PARTICULARLY WHEN ANTICIPATED
SPONSORSHIP VERIFICATIONS WILL EQUAL PROJECTED MOVEMENT.

TM TAKING THE ABOVE INTO CONSIDERATION, ICEM IS PROVIDING TO
ICEM/NY-WASH SIX-SEVEN DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE OF ARRIVAL OF REFUGEE
AT PORT OF ENTRY. WITH EXCEPTION OF MONDAY TUESDAY FLIGHTS FIRM
NOTICE OF FLIGHT NUMBER, DAY, TIME OF ARRIVAL IS PROVIDED
72 WORKING DAY HOURS IN ADVANCE. NORMALLY REFUGEE WILL ARRIVE
AT FINAL DESTINET ON WITHIN 5-8 HOURS AFTER PORT OF ENTRY
ARRIVAL.

6. PROBLEM STILL EXISTS ON TIMELY NOTIFICATIONS TO VOLAGS FOR
MONDAY ARRIVING FLIGHTS. SINCE PEOPLE FOR THESE FLIGHTS ARRIVE
BANGKOK PRIOR WEDNESDAY AND ARE PROCESSED BEFORE WEEKEND, ADVANCE
FIRM NOTICE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEND EARLIER THAN THRUSDAY NIGHT
HERE, THURSDAY MORINING STATESIDE. LATEST NOTICES FOR TUESDAY
LEAVES VOLAGS WITH 5 CALENDAR DAYS OR TWO WORKING DAYS FOR SPON-
SOR NOTIFICATION PLUS PART WORKING DAY ON MONDAY SINCE MOST
FLIGHTS ARRIVE MONDAY NIGHT.

7. HOPEFULLY VOLAGS CAN LIVE WITH THIS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.
AT PRESENT THERE IS MINIMUM ADJUSTMENT POSSIBLE IN BANGKOK
SYSTEM, UNLESS SPONSORSHIPS ARE SENT ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW
ICEM TO MAKE EARLIER BOOKINGS AND RELEVANT NOTIFICATIONS.
WHITEHOUSE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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